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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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SUBJECT: INITIAL MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY'S "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW

JIDDA DAILY AL MADINA FIRST SAUDI PAPER REACT EDITORIALLY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JANUARY 2 INTERVIEW WITH "BUSINESS WEEK" MAGAZINE. IN A RARE FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY ENTITLED, "WHO IS KISSINGER THHREATENING," WRITER DEDUCES, CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, SECRETARY'S REMARKS RELATING TO POSSIBILITIES ARMED INTERVENTION AIMED PRIMARILY AT SOVIET'S AND WESTERN EUROPE. CITING A RECENT SULZBURGER COLUMN IN NY TIMES, COLUMNIST SUBMITTED:

"WHEN KISSINGER THREATENS TO DEPLY TROOPS IN THE AREA, HE DOES NOT THREATEN THE ARBS AS MUCH AS HE WARNS THE SOVIETS AGAINST THE CONSEQUENCES OF COMPLICATING THE M.E. CRISIS, BECAUSE IF THIS COMPLICATION WOULD END UP IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF AMERICAN FORCES, THE SOVIET UNION WILL LOSE ALL REMAINING POLITICAL, MILITARY OR IDEOLOGICAL LEVERAGE IN THIS AREA."

"SIMILARLY, THIS WARNING APPLIES TO AMERICA'S ALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. IT EVEN MIGHT HAVE AIMED AT THEM MORE THAN IT AIMED AT THE SOVIETS
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THEMSELVES, BECAUSE KISSINGER, WHO CONTINUALLY

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DEMONSTRATES DISSATISFACTION OVER THE AGREEMENTS WESTERN COUNTRIES CONCLUDE WITH THE ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, WOULD NOT FIND IT HARMFUL TO PERSUADE THESE WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT THE U.S. MARINES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN OR THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE ABLE, JUST IN ONE MILITARY OPERATION, TO ERADICATE ALL THE ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL OR FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS THAT THE WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS COULD HAVE CONTRACTED WITH THE ARAB PETROLEUM STATES."

"THIS IS PROBABLY THE LIKELIHOOD THAT HAS MOTIVATED THE FRENCH PAPER LE MONDE IN ITS LATEST ISSUE TO QUESTION THE REASONS THAT IMPELLED THE U.S. TO OUTRACE ALL OTHERS IN SHAKING THE CANE AT THE FACE OF THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES WHEN SHE IS THE LEAST VULNERABLE WESTERN STATE TO ANY OIL MEASURE. TO LE MONDE'S QUERY WE MAY ADD ONE MORE: WHY DIDN'T SOVIET RUSSIA RESPOND, IF ONLY ONCE, TO THE MIDDLE EAST MILITARY THREATS, SO ABUNDANT IN AMERICAN STATEMENTS. THE ANSWER TO THESE TWO QUESTIONS MIGHT BE ANOTHER CREDIT TO BE ADDED TO THE ACCOUNT OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE OIL PRODUCERS ARE NOT THE ONES REALLY ADDRESSED BY KISSINGER'S THREATS."
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